



Shiver



alien space spaceship

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Chapter 1 by Hydinn

A sharp, mechanical shriek echoed behind Jara as she ran down the corridor of the Trea, an engineering spaceship for the United Planet's Republic. Jara hurled her wrench at the body-less noise and listened to the metal tool clack behind her, missing the beast entirely. She lifted a flashlight and pointed it behind her.

Nothing.

No noise. No motion. Just complete and utter silence and stillness resonated all around her and chilled her spine as Jara's watch ticked second after second and reminded her of the limited time she had to fix the south engine. She drudged slowly across the cold, steel floor of the hallway and flipped a single switch that triggered the emergency lights in this sector. Red flashed in her eyes as her tears of fear were finally illuminated and wiped away. Whatever the hell was out there, she had to get away from it. She had to help Rosie, her six-year-old girl who was resting in the hyperbolic pods.

A cold shiver ran down Jara's spine as she trekked the corridors of the Trea. No one in the crew

knew what the thing following them was. Now they were all dead, leaving Jara alone to care for Rosie. Jara knew she could get out, but she had to believe. The belief was the only thing that kept her looking over her shoulder again and again and again until she arrived

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"South"

That's all that the sign read now, for the behemoth chasing her had used its claws to scratch through the last word "South Wing." But that might be the last word Jara ever read. Jara turned around and was face-to-face with the huge, grotesque beast at last.

And Jara breathed another long, drawn out breath as the beast extended a single sharp claw towards her.

Chapter 2 by Trini Ashheart



Be still. Jara thought to herself, attempting to make her racing heartbeat slow. *If I'm right, this type of monster can only see motion.*

She held her breath for a long, painful time, until the monster (*purple, three-horned, completely dark pupils. Likely from Karsia?*) retracted his claw and seemed to huff and turn away, breaking down the *South* door.

Jara exhaled, taking a moment to thank all the gods she'd ever heard of. In the absence of immediate danger, her mind drifted to more irrelevant things. Her slate-grey jumpsuit suddenly seemed constricting instead of practical, and she wished she could go back to the North Wing to change—

She heard a crash from the former South Wing and sprinted down the hallway as quietly as she could, heading towards the Pod Ward where Rosie was resting.

Lucky for her, she didn't have to go very far. Jara skidded around a corner, almost running into her half-awake daughter.

"M-mom?" Rosie said, sleepily. "Where's...everyone? What's that beeping noise?"

Jara sighed, taking a moment to hug her daughter. She brushed away Rosie's tangled auburn bangs. "Rosie, we need to go."

She lifted Rosie into her arms easily, who wrapped her arms around Jara's neck. "Where's Cap, Mom?"

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"He's...battling monsters," Jara said, but Rosie didn't need to know that. She was the only child on the ship, and the crew had been like Rosie's family. Jara

heard another crash from the direction she came, and sprinted as fast as she could with a six-year-old in her arms. "He's fighting the huge and ugly ones from Karsia."

"Ew." Rosie crinkled her nose, as her mom reached the Emergency Release bay.

At her mother's instruction, Rosie stuck her face into the crook of Jara's neck. Again, the monster had been here before, and the blood from a nearby dead body (*Colin? My god...*) was splattered on the door, giving it a very unappealing scent.

Jara practically shoved her and her daughter's bodies through the small doorway, flipping on a flickering light and seeing the red escape pods ready to leave.

Chapter 3 by Logan



Jara hurried to get Rosie into the escape pods as quickly as her arms were capable, knowing the possibility of whatever came with that horrid beast, could be heading back.

"Where are we going mommy..?" Rosie looks up as she is being double strapped into the pod.

"Don't worry about it babe, everything's going to be alright." She replies.

Shes gets in beside Rosie after strapping her securely on her side of the pod, making sure all oxygen and exhaust rockets are on standby.

Jara's more on edge than she's ever been.

As she double checks the engines and prepares to press the red launch button to shoot them out of the spaceship, she hears a static feedback coming from the radio, then all of a sudden a voice comes through ...

"Checking in. This is Commander and Chief Sax from the United Planets Republic. Is there anyone left on this spacecraft carrier...?"

There is a sudden queasy feeling in Jaras stomach. She is at a pause...

The voice comes through again but is not very clear this time, as the static and voice battle one another for control of the radio

"Repeat. Is there any life left on spacecraft No. 426...?"

Jara reaches for the radio,

"Yes! Yes! We're here! It's Jara and my daughter Rosie banks. What do we do?" Jara explodes with emotion. "I just came face to face with a monster that looks like Karsian. It has tore the whole south wing of the ship in half and is heading north the northern side as we speak!"

But her rambling was too late... The voice was gone and static consumed the channel.

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"HELLO!?! PLEASE...ANYONE!?"

She drops the receiver, and slams her fist into the launch button. With a tempo of a 5 second countdown, they were back into the vastness of space.

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